

Keeping you Up-to-Date



TAKS Accommodations aligned with changes in Accommodation Manual

In the speedy manner that you have come to expect from GG Consulting, we quickly responded to this year's changes in the TAKS Accommodations. Districts received their updates within days of the release of the TAKS Accommodations Manual and have been able to select accommodations in their ARDs that align with those in the manual.

This summer's update also included a reformatted **TAKS Information Report** and **TAKS Test Ordering Estimate**. Be sure to run and check these reports often & make your testing coordinator's day!

Parental Request to Decline Special Education Services

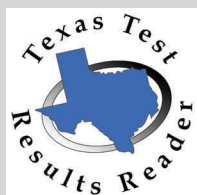
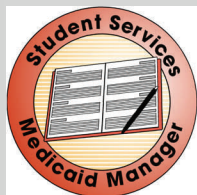
As parents of special education students can now request to decline services for their child at any time, several changes and enhancements were made in the Special Education Manager.

The Consent for Initial Placement, Notice of Decision, and the ARD Signature Page were all revised to reflect the change in the federal regulation. More exciting, however, is the change in the function of the Decline Services form which will now generate a Summary of Recommendations that parents can sign, acknowledging their desire to decline these specific services.

TAKS-Alt Essence Statements available in IEP Goal Bank

The built-in IEP writer available in the Special Education Manager was redesigned in the release of v8.0 this summer. The changes included a simplified user interface, inclusion of the TEKS as a goal bank, and the option for districts to include their own district-developed goal banks.

To assist with writing grade-level goals and objectives, we have now also included the TAKS-Alt. essence statements in the v8.2 update. This will be extremely helpful in targeting instruction for students taking the TAKS-Alt. with grade-appropriate goals and objectives.



TCASE Celebration in Fort Worth!

We're celebrating the release of Special Education Manager Version 8 and thanking our clients at an exciting event at this year's TCASE in Fort Worth. If you haven't already done so, be sure to RSVP for this party which will include cocktails, food, entertainment, and shuttle service between the party and the Omni

Hotel. If you didn't receive an invitation or aren't an existing client, simply stop by our booth at TCASE to receive your wristband and also see the POWER of Special Education Manager first-hand.

Also at TCASE, we'll be demonstrating some of the POWERful features of SEM such as

Student Services Tracking, Response to Intervention, 504, LPAC, and Data Reporting. Others may *say* they can provide these features, but only we can actually *show* you how they actually work. Stop by our booth for a schedule of these brief demonstrations that will be held during breaks.



“To Do” List

1. RSVP to TCASE Client Appreciation Party
2. De-activate “Activate Quarter Update” feature in SEM in new semester
3. Confirm that your district TAKS Coordinator orders correct data for (TR)²
4. Check your server for Windows 2003
5. Submit suggestions for changes to SEM by 2/19/09
6. Schedule on-site training for Spring, Summer, & Fall
7. Consider your web-based options
8. Visit our new website www.ggconsulting.com for copies of POWER Notes, Downloads, Manuals, and new “How-to” Videos

“How-to” Videos Available at www.ggconsulting.com

You may have already found our newly re-written program manuals on our website at www.ggconsulting.com, but did you happen to notice the new “How-to” videos?

We’ve been hard at work adding the new easy-to-use videos that will walk you through a number of activities and topics that have been in high demand. The narrated videos include screenshots with step-by-step directions to walk you through each of the activities and let you know what to look for and what to expect along the way.

The following videos are available on our website:

- Logging on using GoGlobal/ASP
- Transferring students to another SEM district
- 6 videos related to creating SHARS/Medicaid tickets

To access the videos, go to www.ggconsulting.com and select “Login.” Log in using your district-specific username and password. If you don’t know them, call us at

(888) 442-6751 for help. Once you’ve logged in, go to the “Downloads” page where you will find the program manuals and videos. You can either view these items online or even better, download them to your computer and save them for future reference or training.

Check back often for other videos as we will continue to add new ones regularly. If there is a specific topic that you would like us to consider making a how-to video of, don’t hesitate to send in a request!

Check your Server Operating System or Consider ASP

If you are one of our ever-growing list of ASP clients...you can stop reading now! However, if you house your own server for SEM, keep reading.

In order to continue to provide the highest level of technical operations, all in-district servers must be updated to Windows 2003 Oper-

ating System by July 1, 2009. Please check with your district’s technology department as soon as possible to confirm that your operating system is up-to-date. If it’s not, please make arrangements to have your technology department update your operating system as soon as possible.

While you’re talking to your

technology department, say the magic phrase “ASP” and watch their faces light up! Consider this fantastic server and web-based solution for your district. With our ASP solution, we house and maintain your server for you and give your users web-based access from any computer with internet access. It’s easy, affordable, and amazing!

I-Suite Leadership Conference to be held in the Fall

In response to the many requests from previous Leadership Conference attendees, we have made plans to move the date of the conference. While we have not settled on the date yet, it will most likely be in **October**. We will continue to offer the conference in at least 3 cities in Texas to make attending as convenient as possible for you.

It is our hope that pushing the date of the conference back a few weeks will allow time for TEA’s late-summer and early-fall changes to be incorporated into our program update and the conference topics.

The Leadership Conference is a great opportunity for your POWER users to network

with other SEM users and to learn about program changes and enhancements directly from GG Consulting, LLC. We strongly encourage that every district send at least one representative to the conference and will notify you as soon as the dates and locations are finalized so that you can make your plans accordingly.